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session directing funds for a program that, as Senator Redfield has said and others have said, we can prove works. We know it works and I would ask for your continued support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of I have, as you have seen, an amendment before you that we'll discuss after the committee amendments are forwarded. but I do want to make mention of the process that we're going through and what will happen if we open this one door. We had referenced between Health and Human Services Committee this year About one-third of those bills could have gone 56 bills. through this very same process, and once we open this door why not? Why not take every one of these bills, have them come before the Legislature in this same process to tap these dollars? And pretty soon it's gone and we haven't even got to the Health and Human...or the Excellence in Health Care Council for any of their recommendations or any of their priorities that they have set forth. Now, if those priorities that they were talking about you feel you have a concern with, please visit with them, talk to them. They are individuals, just like you They will respond, I think, like you and I do, and they're interested. But once we open this door and allow, yes, this is a smoking bill and, by the way, I...I don't have any problem with this at all. Any way that we can...can reduce teen smoking I am for. But I am concerned about funding it through the Excellence in Health Care Trust Fund dollars before they've funded one item, before they've looked and processed all of the grant proposals that are before them, before they have even taken a look at what those priorities might be. And if we're going to do this, then I say let's throw out the Excellence in Health Care Council altogether. We don't need that. Let's do Let's have all the bills through it through this process. Health and Human Services funded by this process that concern themselves with public health and then the idea of a trust fund is...really has...doesn't have a great deal of meaning. that's what I really want to caution you with. Now, yes, I had hoped that LB 505 would pass and one thing about LB 505 that it did talk about was a comprehensive approach to tobacco. The CDC published best practices for a comprehensive tobacco control program. This was just done in '98, and it talks about what